

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 14-17, and 21-23 are independent. Claims 1, 2, and 5-8 are hereby amended. Claim 4, which was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, has been incorporated into claims 1, 2, and 6-8. Claims 9-23 were indicated to be allowable.

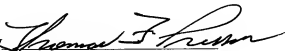
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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